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WO A1 8304124 US 4416073

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(58) Field of search

A1E

G5C

(54) **Animal/bird scarer**

(57) Apparatus primarily for scaring birds or animals comprises an inflatable envelope, means for inflating the envelope, means permitting deflation of the envelope, and means for operating the inflation means, said operating means including means whereby the envelope may be automatically inflated at intervals, the arrangement being such that the envelope deflates between successive inflations. The envelope may be humanoid in shape and the apparatus may include a sound source as well as time delay adjustment means. The apparatus is also stated to be suitable for advertising purposes.

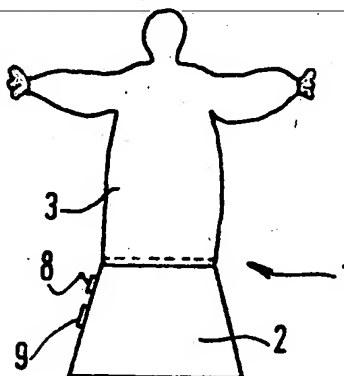


FIG.1.

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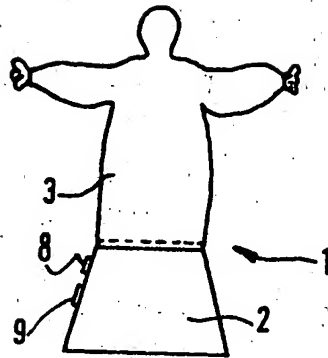


FIG. 1.

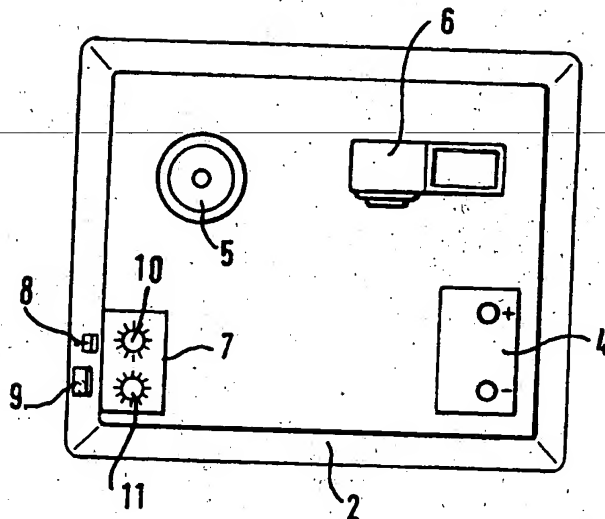


FIG. 2.

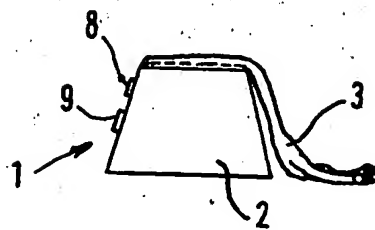


FIG. 3.

SPECIFICATION

Animal/bird scarer

5 This invention relates to apparatus suitable for scaring birds or animals but is envisaged to have a far wider applicability e.g. to such diverse fields as advertising and security.

Known bird scarers include the traditional scare crow, a kike or balloon fashioned as a bird of prey, and automatic detonators. With most of these bird scarers, they soon lose their effectiveness as the birds become familiar with them.

15 According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided apparatus comprising an inflatable envelope, means for inflating the envelope, means permitting deflation of the envelope, and means for operating the inflation means.

20 Preferably said means for operating the inflation means includes means whereby the envelope may be automatically inflated at intervals. Alternatively, the operating means may be a manually operable switch or a trigger or sensor mechanism, e.g. a light-, pressure- or sound-sensitive control mechanism.

A primary application of the apparatus of this invention is as an animal/bird scarer. For this application, the envelope may be shaped to resemble a human figure, and may be fabricated from a material of a startling colour such as fluorescent orange. Also, for this application, the apparatus preferably includes a sound source for producing bird-scaring noises such as e.g. a siren, the alarm calls of birds, the sound of a shot gun being fired etc. Preferably the sound source is arranged to operate only when the envelope is being inflated.

Generally speaking, the apparatus will be electrically powdered, for convenience, and accordingly may include an electric power source such as a lead-acid battery.

45 The means for inflating the envelope may be any source of gas pressure such as a compressed gas cylinder, gas-generating means or, preferably, an electric fan. In the case of a fan this is preferably of the centrifugal impeller type though radial type fans may be employed.

The operating means preferably includes time delay setting means whereby there may be present the length of time for which the envelope is inflated and the period between successive inflations. The operating means may also include light-sensitive means whereby the apparatus may be rendered inoperative at night or, for particular applications, operative at night or when ambient light level falls below a predetermined threshold.

Illumination means may be included so as to illuminate the envelope for the period during

ing which it is inflated e.g. at intervals throughout the night.

An embodiment of the present invention will now be described by reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

70 Figure 1 is a front elevation of an embodiment of the apparatus according to the present invention, in an inflated state;

Figure 2 is a diagrammatic plan view of the base of the apparatus of Fig. 1; and

75 Figure 3 is a front elevation of the apparatus of Fig. 1, in a deflated state.

Referring to the drawing a bird scarer 1 comprises a base 2 and an inflatable envelope 3 secured about the upper rim of the base 2, by means of an elasticated portion of the envelope 3. Alternatively, the envelope 3 may be secured to the base 2 by means of interengaging hook and eye connections (e.g. "Velcro") or by a securing band or any other suitable means.

80 The envelope 3 is preferably made of substantially impermeable polyvinyl chloride, preferably in a starting colour such as "DAY-GLO" orange. Alternatively the envelope may be made of a material such as rubber. It is preferably generally humanoid in shape and may for example be shaped to represent a human figure aiming a shot gun.

90 The base 2 is of waterproof construction and contains a 12 volt battery 4, a siren 5, a fan 6 and timer means 7, switch 8 and light cell 9, suitably interconnected by wires (not shown).

100 The timer means 7, switch 8 and light cell 9 are arranged so that they control the operation of the siren 5 and fan 6, the timer means 8 incorporating setting means 10, 11 whereby the delay between successive such operations may be set and whereby the duration of each said operation may be set. The light cell 9 is arranged either to prevent operation of the siren 5 and fan 6 when ambient light falls to less than a predetermined level or to enable such operation when the ambient light falls to less than said predetermined level.

110 The fan 6 is arranged to blow air upwardly into envelope 3 thereby to inflate the said envelope. When the fan 6 is off, leakage of air from the apparatus is preferably such that the envelope 3 deflates fairly rapidly.

115 An electric lamp is included in the electric circuit, for illuminating the envelope whilst said siren 5 and fan 6 are operative.

120 The siren 6 may be replaced by a pre-recorded sound in conjunction, for example, with a cassette recorder which should might be for example the alarm call of the particular genus of creature to be scared away.

125 It is envisaged that the apparatus of the present invention may be useful in other fields apart from the utility discussed hereinbefore. In particular it is envisaged that the apparatus may have applicability in for example the field

of advertising and promotion, security, traffic regulation in the widest sense, etc. the present invention embraces all the uses to which the apparatus can be put.

5

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus comprising an inflatable envelope, means for inflating the envelope, means permitting deflation of the envelope, and means for operating the inflation means.
- 10 2. Apparatus for scaring birds or animals, which comprises an inflatable envelope, means for inflating the envelope, means permitting deflation of the envelope, and means for operating the inflation means, said operating means including means whereby the envelope may be automatically inflated at intervals, the arrangement being such that the envelope deflates between successive inflations.
- 20 3. Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the envelope is shaped to resemble a human figure.
4. Apparatus according to claim 2 or 3, wherein said envelope is brightly coloured.
- 25 5. Apparatus according to any of claims 2 to 4, which includes a sound source for producing bird- or animal-scaring noises.
6. Apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said sound source is arranged to operate only when the envelope is being inflated or is in an inflated state.
- 30 7. Apparatus according to any of claims 2 to 6, wherein the means for inflating the envelope includes a cylinder of compressed gas.
8. Apparatus according to any of claims 2 to 6, wherein the means for inflating the envelope includes an electric fan.
- 40 9. Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said electric fan is of the centrifugal impeller type.
10. Apparatus according to any one of claims 2 to 9, wherein the operating means includes time delay setting means whereby the length of time the envelope is inflated and/or the period between successive inflations is adjustable.
- 45 11. Apparatus according to any one of claims 2 to 10, which includes light-sensitive means for rendering the apparatus inoperative in darkness.
12. Apparatus according to any of claims 2 to 11, which includes a light source to render the envelope visible in darkness.
- 55 13. Apparatus for scaring birds or animals, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
14. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the means for operating the inflation means is arranged to automatically inflate the envelope at intervals, the arrangement being such that the envelope deflates between successive inflations.
- 60 15. Apparatus according to claim 14, for

us as an advertisement.

16. Apparatus according to claim 14, for use in vehicular traffic control.

17. The features hereinbefore disclosed, or their equivalents, in any novel selection.

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